

Catawba County's first Superior Court judge. Four years after the fundraising began, the library opened in May 1936. The Legion Auxiliary, which owned the library, operated it with volunteers until they transferred it to the Catawba County Board of Commissioners in 1941. In 1946, the library was transferred into its second home, the Matthias Barringer house, which had been moved to the Catawba County War Memorial Center in Newton. This restored historic house, a log structure that dated to 1790, served as Catawba County's first courthouse in 1843. This building burned in February 1952, destroying approximately 17,000 of the library's books. Its modern replacement was constructed in downtown Newton, opening in September 1954. The growth of the library's resources during the 1960s necessitated a new building, which was built in 1975 in Newton. This library, along with six branches, continues to serve the citizens of Catawba County.